



Docket No.: 245794US2SRD

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313



ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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RE: Application Serial No.: 10/720,100

Applicants: Yuuki TOMOEDA, et al.

Filing Date: November 25, 2003

For: IC-CARD SERVICE PERIOD SETTING METHOD, IC  
CARD, IC CARD CASE AND BATTERY CHARGER

Group Art Unit: 2876

Examiner: NGUYEN, KIMBERLY

SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

**PROVISIONAL ELECTION**

Our check in the amount of \$0.00 is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

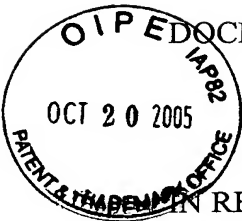
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF

YUUKI TOMOEDA, ET AL.

SERIAL NO: 10/720,100

FILED: NOVEMBER 25, 2003

FOR: IC-CARD SERVICE PERIOD  
SETTING METHOD, IC CARD, IC CARD  
CASE AND BATTERY CHARGER

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: EXAMINER: NGUYEN, KIMBERLY

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: GROUP ART UNIT: 2876

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PROVISIONAL ELECTION

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the election requirement dated September 20, 2005, Applicants provisionally elect with traverse the species of Group II, identified in the outstanding Official Action as corresponding to Figures 3 and 13-15, for further examination on the merits. Applicants identifies Claims 1-11 are readable on the elected species. Applicants reserves the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected species.

Furthermore, while the Election Requirement asserts that the application contains claims to patentably distinct species, MPEP § 803 states the following:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.

Although the outstanding Official Action does not identify search classifications, it is believed that the claims of the present application would have to be searched in a handful of sub-classes. Furthermore, since electronic searching is commonly performed, a search may be made of a large number of, or theoretically all, subclasses without substantial additional

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Reply to Office Action of September 20, 2005

effort. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse the Election Requirement on the grounds that a search and examination of the entire application would not place a *serious* burden on the Examiner, whereas it would be a serious burden on Applicants to prosecute and maintain separate applications.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the requirements to elect a single species to be withdrawn, and that a full examination on the merits of Claims 1-15 be conducted.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



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